



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

May 4, 2016

Adam Hill
Supervisor, District Three
Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County
1055 Monterey, Room D340
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-1003

Dear Mr. Hill:

Thank you for your March 7, 2016 letter regarding EPA's review of the California Division Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources' (DOGGR's) request for an expansion of the aquifer exemption (AE) for the Dollie Sands of the Pismo Formation in the Arroyo Grande oil field. EPA recently completed our initial review of the state's request and concluded that more information is needed to adequately conduct our review of the proposed AE (see Enclosure). More specifically, EPA is seeking supplemental information pertaining to the demonstration that the aquifer proposed for exemption does not currently serve as a source of drinking water and clarification of the proposed exemption boundaries.

After EPA receives the supplemental information from the state, we will determine the next steps in the AE review process, which could include an opportunity for public comment on any new information provided to EPA, and possibly a public meeting or hearing.

EPA is working closely with the DOGGR and State Water Board to bring California's Class II UIC program into compliance. EPA will continue to oversee the state's progress in meeting its compliance goals and ensure that the state's oil and gas UIC program meets federal requirements.

Thank you for your interest and concern about California's water resources. Protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our nation's drinking water are among the highest priorities for the EPA. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at (415) 972-3971, or you may call David Albright, Manager of our Drinking Water Protection Section, at (415) 972-3971.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Montgomery".

Michael Montgomery
Assistant Director, Water Division

Enclosure